

A NEW COMBINATION IN AMBROSIA
(HELANTHEAE-ASTERACEAE) FROM PERU

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***Ambrosia dentata* (Cabr.) Dillon, comb. nov.**

Franseria dentata Cabr., Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot. 10: 25. 1962. TYPE: PERU. Depto. Arequipa. Prov. Caraveli: lomas del Puerto Lomas, 390 m, 13 Nov 1957, N. Angulo 2554 (holotype: LP, not seen).

Ambrosia parvifolia Payne, Brittonia 18: 35. 1966. TYPE: PERU. Depto. Arequipa. Prov. Caraveli: Nazca-Chaviña, desert, 200 m, 16 Mar 1951, W. Rauh & D. Hirsh P498 (holotype: NY, not seen).

A recent collecting trip in the lomas formations of coastal Peru yielded a small subshrub with ambrosioid characteristics. Cabrera (1962) described this unusual species within Franseria, a genus now considered congeneric with Ambrosia (Payne, 1964), thus necessitating the present combination. Payne (1966), apparently unaware of Cabrera's earlier description, redescribed the species as an Ambrosia, and stated that it resembled no other species known to him. Its shrubby habit and involucre morphology suggested affinity to an assemblage of relict species found in Baja California and adjacent Sonora, Mexico.

This subshrub has small (10-15 mm long), sessile, entire to dentate leaves unlike any others within the genus. The totally epaleate receptacles of the staminate capitula is another character not found elsewhere in the genus.

Phytochemical analysis of this species (Aregullin et al., in press) has shown it to elaborate a unique complement of flavonoids and sesquiterpenes. These data suggest its closest affinity is with Ambrosia dumosa (Gray) Payne, a species of the western United States, and Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. It probably represents a long-time occupant of the southern Peruvian desert and is best considered an allodisjunct (Turner, 1972) whose immediate ancestors are no longer extant.

Literature Cited

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